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# STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

#### ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

KATHLEEN M. HARDING, M.D., D.P.H., A.K.C.

and the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

and

MEAT AND FOODS INSPECTOR.

J. S. FISHER, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

for the year

1953.

" " 

#### STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Council Offices, Ipswich Road, STOWMARKET.

June, 1954.

To The Chairman and Members of the STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1953. During the whole of the year under consideration my predecessor, Dr. M.A. Dawson, was in office.

There has been no notable change in the level of population of the district. The Birth Rate shows a decline from last year and is slightly lower than that of England and Wales. The Death Rate (adjusted) has fallen from 9.9 in 1952 to 8.6 in 1953. It compares most favourably with the rate for England and Wales which is 11.4. There was an excess of births over deaths of 34.

An outbreak of Measles occurred, being almost entirely confined to the first quarter of the year. 294 cases in all were notified. The incidence of other cases of notifiable infectious diseases remained at a low level. Four cases of food poisoning were notified. Three of the persons affected were members of one family, and the other case was the only person in the household to become ill. Investigations carried out suggest that infection of the foodstuffs did not occur prior to purchase by the respective householders. There was a small decline in the number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register. Three new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year, a decrease of two as compared with the previous year, but three new non-pulmonary cases were reported as opposed to two in 1952.

No case of Diphtheria was notified during the year. In order that this good record may be maintained it is essential for all children to have been immunised, if possible, before they reach the age of one year. This is one disease that can be prevented, and it is to be hoped that all parents will ensure that their children are fully protected against it by getting them immunised.

The Public Health Department has continued to collaborate with the Medical Research Council during the past year in investigations on Poliomyelitis. It is understood that the results of this work are beginning to provide some very valuable information and thanks are due to all those persons who have so kindly co-operated with us.

In conclusion I should like to express my appreciation for all the help that I have received from the staff of the Council, and in particular from Mr. Fisher, both in regard to the preparation of this report, and during the short time that I have been here, in the general work of the Department.

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#### GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area Population (Estime Home Population, General's Figure Inhabited Houses. Rateable Value.	Registrar			1696 a 7433. 2394. £49,10	
Sum represented by BIRTHS. (Registrar Ge				£193.	
LIVE BIRTHS.  Total Legitimate. Illegitimate.	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	• • • •	<del>5</del> 3. 52.	50.	otal. 103. 101. 2.
BIRTH RATE :-  Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 home po Comparability fac Standardised Birt	pulation - tor.			= :	13·86. 15·5. 1·07. 14·83.
STILL BIRTHS.  Total. Legitimate. Illegitimate.  RATE:-	• • • •	• • • •	M. F 1. 1 1. 1	•	tal. 2. 2.
per 1,000 home po		England & W	ales.	=	0·27. 0·35.
INFANTILE MORTALI Total. Legitimate. Illegitimate.	TY. (Under	one year)	M. F 3. 1 3. 1	_	tal. 4. 4.

### DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER FOUR WEEKS OF AGE.

			Μ.	${\mathbb F}$ .	Total.
Total.	5 0 0		<u>2</u> . −	Ī.	3.
Legitimate.		• • •	2.	1.	3.
Illegitimate.		• • •	<del>-</del> .		<b>-</b> .
TTTO DT TTHE SOUT	• • •	Y Y Y	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	•	~

### INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE :-

per	1,000	live	births.				38.83.
_	do.		do	England	28	Wales.	26.8.

## DEATHS. (Registrar General's figures).

			<u>M</u> .	<del></del> , •	Total.
ALL CAUSES.	• • •	• • •	31.	38.	69.

A. .... 

#### DEATH RATE: -

Crude Death rate per 1,000 home population. = 9.28.
per 1,000 home population, - England & Wales. = 11.4.
Comparability factor. = 0.93.
Standardised Death Rate. = 8.6.

#### CAUSES OF DEATH.

	$\underline{M}$ .	F.	Total.
Tuberculosis - respiratory.  Malignant neoplasm - lung, bronchus. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms. Diabetes. Vascular lesions of nervous system. Coronary disease, angina. Hypertension with heart disease. Other heart disease. Other circulatory disease. Influenza. Pneumonia. Bronchitis. Other diseases of respiratory system. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum. Congenital malformations, Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	1. 2. 5. 1. 3. 1. 2. 4. 1.	2. 1. 6. 6. 3. 7. 3. 1. 2. 2.	2. 7. 2. 9. 4. 9. 7. 1. 4. 6. 1.
Totals :-	31.	38.	69.

#### COMPARATIVE TABLE FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS.

	1951.	1952.	1953.	England & Wales. 1953.	
Inhabited Houses.	2355.	2378.	2394		
Population (Registrar General's figures).	7382.	7413.	7433.		
Live Births.	102.	108.	103.		
Standardised Birth Rate per 1,000 population.	14.79.	15:59.	14.83.	15.5.	17.5.
Deaths of Infants under one year.	1.	ll.	4.		
Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000 live births.	9.8.	9.26.	<u>38°83.</u>	26•8.	24°8
Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population.	11.34.	9•9.	8•6.	11.4.	12.5.

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES. (Excluding Tuberculosis) - Compiled from notifications received.

	Ages.						Total.	Admit- ted to Hosp-	Deaths.	
Diseases.	-l	1/ 2	3/	5/ 9	10/	15/ 24	25 *	10001.	ital.	Deadins.
Scarlet Fever.		1.		3.	2.		- •	6.		
Whooping Cough.	1.	3.	5.	3.		c		12.	a	
Measles.	9.	39.	78.	156.	5.	2.	5•	294.	5.	
Acute Pneumonia.		_ o		1.		<b>-</b> .	2.	3.		4.
Dysentery.		1.	1.	1.				3.	1.	
Mening- ococcal Infection.	l.	_=.						11	1	
Food Poisoning.	gener.						4.	4.		
Totals :-							323.	7.	4.	

#### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Number of pre-School children immunised, 1953. - 89.
Number of School children immunised, 1953. - NIL.
"Booster" treatment, 1953. - 131.

#### TUBERCULOSIS.

Pulmonary. Non-Pulmonary. M. F. M. F.

- (i) New Cases notified. 3. -. 1. 2.
- (ii) Ages of new cases :-

Pulmonary (Lungs).

3 Males. - 25, 41 and 44 years.

Non-Pulmonary.

1 Male. - 53 years.
2 Females. - 7 and 8 years.

(iii) Cases "crossed off the Register as recovered" during the year :-

2 Pulmonary. (1 Male, - 23 years; 1 Female, - 34 years). 7 Non-Pulmonary. (2 Males, - 9 and 14 years). (5 Females, - 17, 20, 20, 48 and 52 years).

(iv) Cases "crossed off the Register by removal to other Districts or by death" during the year :-

<u>To other Districts</u>:- l Pulmonary (Female - 33 years). l Non-Pulmonary (Male - 45 years).

By Death :- 2 Pulmonary (Male - 33 years, Female - 47 years).

(v) Cases on the Register at the end of the year :-

Pulmonary.			No	n-Pulr	nonary.
M.	$\underline{\mathbb{F}}$ .	Total.	$\underline{\underline{M}}$ .	$\underline{\mathbb{F}}$ .	Total.
12.	8.	20.	5•	10.	15.

#### SECTION 47 OF THE NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

No formal action was taken under this Section, but a number of elderly people living under unsatisfactory conditions were kept under observation by frequent visits.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply for the area has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.

#### FOOD.

Information under this heading is given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

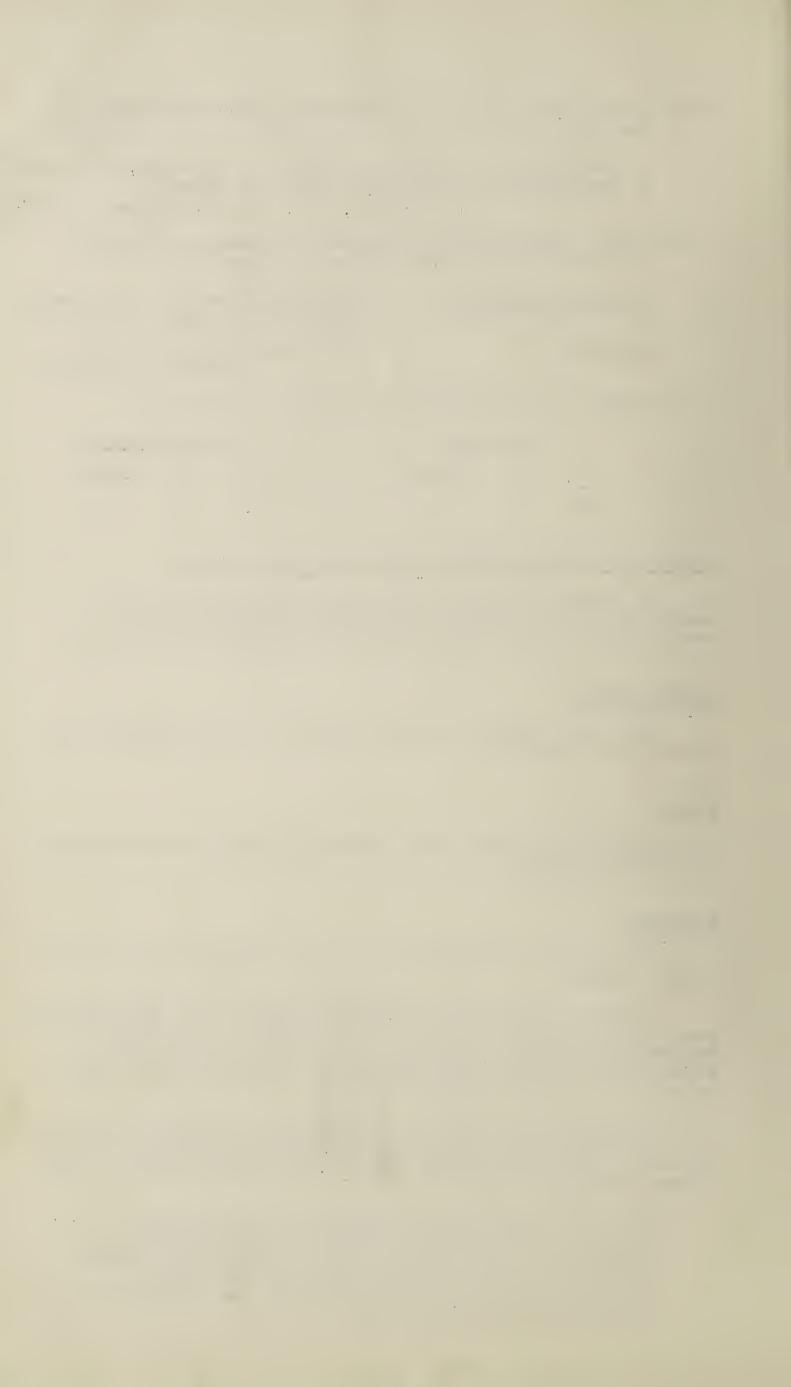
#### SEWERAGE.

The Council's Surveyor has kindly supplied this section of the report.

Stage 2 of your new scheme has engaged the attention of your Consultants and Staff for some time and the taking of hundreds of samples, together with observations of the experimental surface aeration plant, has enabled the final details to reach an advanced stage.

Plans are now ready for submission in respect of new sewers in Onehouse Road and Needham Road, storm water relief in Crown Street and Bridge Street, and the following at the Sewage Treatment Works:-

Detritus Channels, additional Settlement Tank, Filters, Humus Tanks, Sludge Digestion Tanks, additional Sludge Drying Beds, Storm Water Overflow and Tanks, Sand Filters, additions to existing Pumping Station, Attendant's House and Workshop and a Recirculation Pump House.



Machinery will consist of two recirculation water pumps, eight distributors and two sludge pumps.

Approval has been given by the Minister to the laying of a sewer from Stowupland (Gipping Rural District Council) and to the treatment of the sewage at your new works.

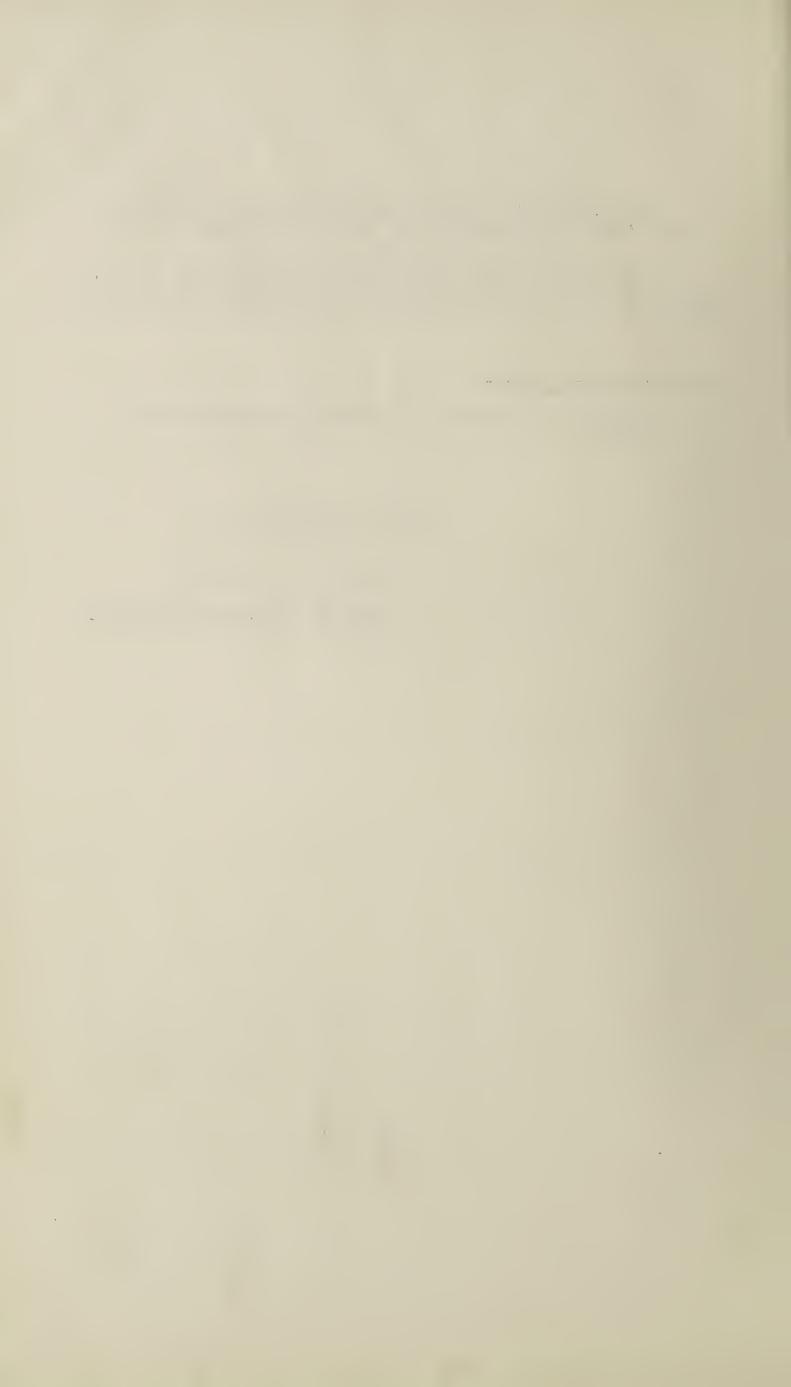
#### FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Ministry of Labour and National Service Form 572 is attached.

I am, Gentlemen, Your obedient servant,

KATHLEEN M. HARDING.

Medical Officer of Health.



#### STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Council Offices, Ipswich Road, STOWMARKET.

June, 1954.

To The Chairman and Members of the STOVMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

### Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

I beg to submit my eighth Annual Report, this being for the year 1953.

#### HOUSING.

During the year four houses, twelve flats, and eighteen bungalows were completed for the Council, and forty-two houses for private enterprise, and at the close of the year thirty-one houses were in course of construction for private enterprise. Included in the private enterprise houses are fifty-two on a new estate in Combs Lane, thirty-one of which were completed and twenty-one in course of construction.

#### MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

Eight licences to station and use moveable dwellings were issued.

#### HOUSING ACT, 1949.

One application for an Improvement Grant was received and approved by the Council just before the close of the year, and was sent forward to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

#### OVERCROWDING.

Two cases of overcrowding came to notice, both the result of two families occupying one house. These were referred to the Housing Superintendent.

#### AGED PERSONS LIVING IN UNSATISFACTORY CONDITIONS.

This problem, to which reference was made in the last Annual Report, again received a great deal of attention by the Medical Officer of Health and myself in conjunction with the County Welfare Department. Six elderly ladies living alone under somewhat unsatisfactory conditions were visited from time to time. One was eventually removed to hospital by the Welfare Department, and died soon afterwards; one was ill and voluntarily agreed to go into hospital; one was found collapsed in her garden early one morning and was removed to hospital, and later transferred to a Mental Hospital; one was admitted to hospital after an accident in



her home, but she could not be induced to stay, and returned home after a period of five months. The two others are struggling along as best they can, resolutely refusing to consider removal to a hospital or home. These were visited frequently and encouraged and humoured as far as this was possible, but beyond this nothing could be done.

#### FOOD.

Food and Food Hygiene have been given first priority, and a large proportion of time has been spent on these duties. Frequent visits have been paid to the various premises, which on the whole have been well kept. Some have been very well kept, whilst at the other extreme informal action has had to be taken to improve conditions in a few cases. Intelligent discrimination by the public - and this can be more readily exercised now that rationing has ceased - is the most useful and powerful means of improving conditions in all food premises.

The following is a summary of the work carried out.

#### (a) Meat (Home Killed).

A 100% inspection of all the carcases and offals passing through the Government Central Slaughterhouse has been maintained and I again place on record the valuable assistance given by the Slaughterhouse Manager (Mr.C.A.Lilley) in this connection.

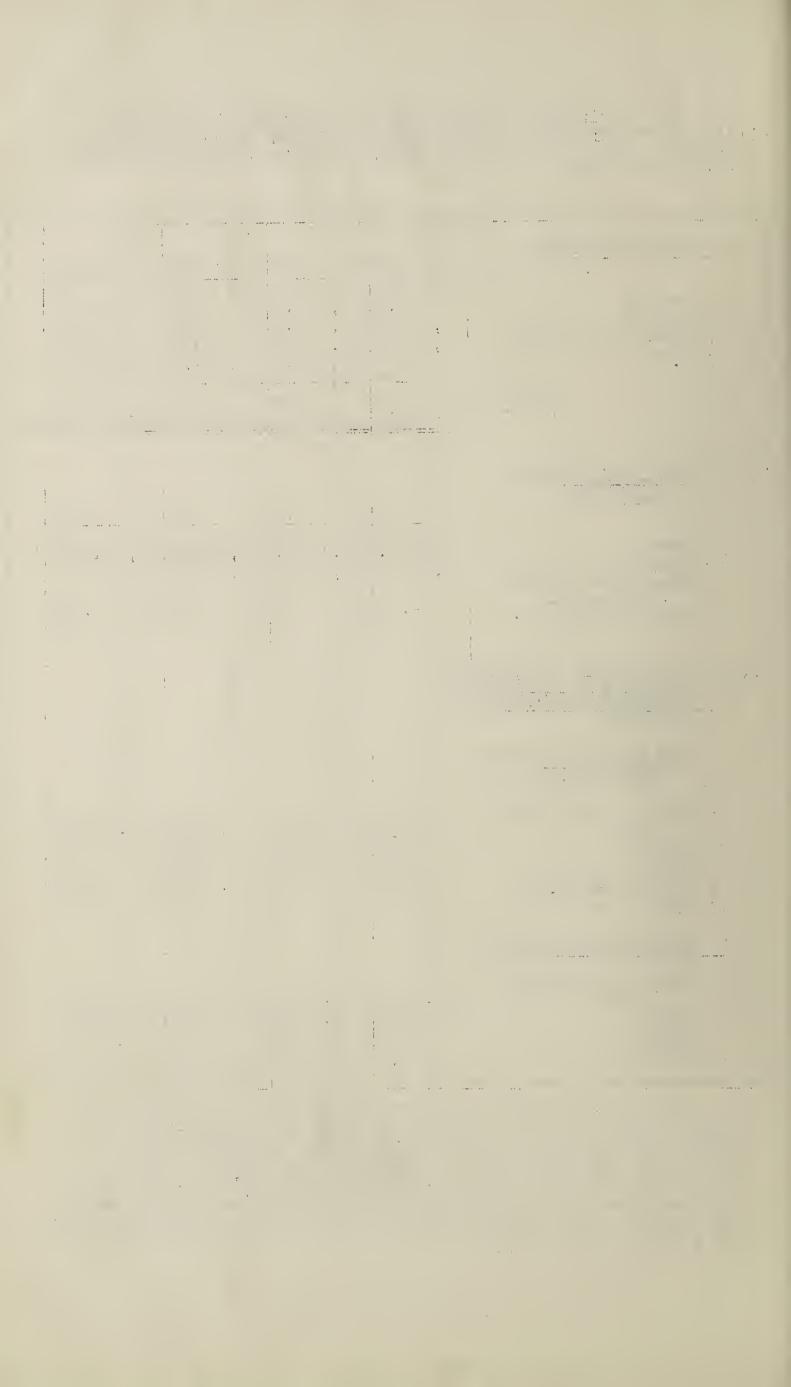
Details of carcases inspected and of the condemnations at the Slaughterhouse are as follows :-

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs:
Number killed.	1009.	378.	1170.	2745•	3044.
Number inspected.	1009.	378.	1170.	2745.	3044.
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcases condemned.	l1	2.	6.	3.	26.
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	181.	75.	5•	126.	276.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	20°12.	18.78.	Not affect- ed by disease.	1.53.	0.09.
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcases condemned.	1.	2.			3.
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	52.	60.			84.
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	5•25•	16.4.			2.86.

The following Tables show (i) the animals killed; (ii) meat and offals condemned; and (iii) the percentage of animals killed found to be affected with disease during the past four years:-

(i)	ANIMALS KILLED.  Cattle. Calves. Sheep and Lambs.	1950. 1,218. 1,156. 1,769.	1951. 1,314. 1,059. 1,453.	1952. 1,672. 910. 2,477.	1953. 1,387. 1,170. 2,745.
	Pigs. Totals:	4,647.	1,160. 4,986.	2,067. 7,126.	3,044. 8,346.
(ii)	MEAT AND OFFALS  CONDEMNED.  Meat. Offals. Meat from other districts. Imported Meat.	1bs. 12,671½. 9,700½.		1bs. 13,537 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> . 9,681 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> . 833 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	lbs. 8,691½. 8,737. 59. 136½.
(iii)	PERCENTAGE OF ANIMALS KILLED AFFECTED WITH DISEASE. All diseases except				
	Tuberculosis.  Cattle, excluding Cows.  Cows. Calves. Sheep and Lambs. Pigs.	23.06. 22.81. 0.95. 1.41. 17.66.	13.54. 16.8. 2.27. 2.55. 7.5.	23.57. 16.84. 1.87. 1.49. 4.35.	20·12. 18·78.  1·53. 0·09.
	Tuberculosis only.  Cattle, excluding Cows.  Cows.  Calves.  Pigs.	6·39. 28·65. 0·09. 3·37.	7·49. 20·65. 0·09. 1·72.	3 · 93 · 14 · 97 · - · 3 · 29 ·	5·25· 16·4·  2·86·

The total "kill" at the Slaughterhouse was nearly 15% higher than that of the previous year, and nearly 80% above that of 1950, and more than double that of 1949. There were some 300 fewer Cattle, but 260 more Calves, 270 more Sheep, and nearly 1,000 more Pigs than in 1952. This large increase has involved much more time being devoted to this particular work, and has necessitated evening and Sunday work on a number of occasions.



Total condemnations amounted to 6,429 lbs. less than in the previous year, though the percentage of animals affected with some disease or another was slightly higher.

Eleven Cattle carcases were found to be affected with Cysticercus Bovis.

#### (b) Imported Reat.

 $119\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. of Imported Meat were condemned for Bone Taint, 10 lbs. for bruising, and 7 lbs. dirty.

#### (c) Tinned and Other Foods.

The following tinned and other foods were condemned :-

Fish. Fruit. Meat. Milk. Vegetables. Miscellaneous.	23 tins. Bulk. 324 tins. 144 tins etc. 98 tins. 27 tins. 77 tins etc. 2 tins. 124 tins etc. 2 tins etc.	lbs. ozs.  12. 2½. 42 420¾. 195. 3. 88. 10. 48%. equiv: pints. 79. 10½. 80 fluid ozs. 112. 15. 21 fluid ozs.
	821 tins etc.	908. $9\frac{1}{2}$ . 101 fluid ozs. $48\frac{5}{8}$ equiv: pints. 42 lbs. Bulk.

#### (d) Total Weight of all Foods condemned.

8.298 tons. (1952 :- 11.278 tons.)

#### (e) Method of Disposal of Condemned Food.

Meat and Offals, mainly from the Government Central Slaughterhouse, but including that from Shops, etc. Through the Ministry of Food Contractors.

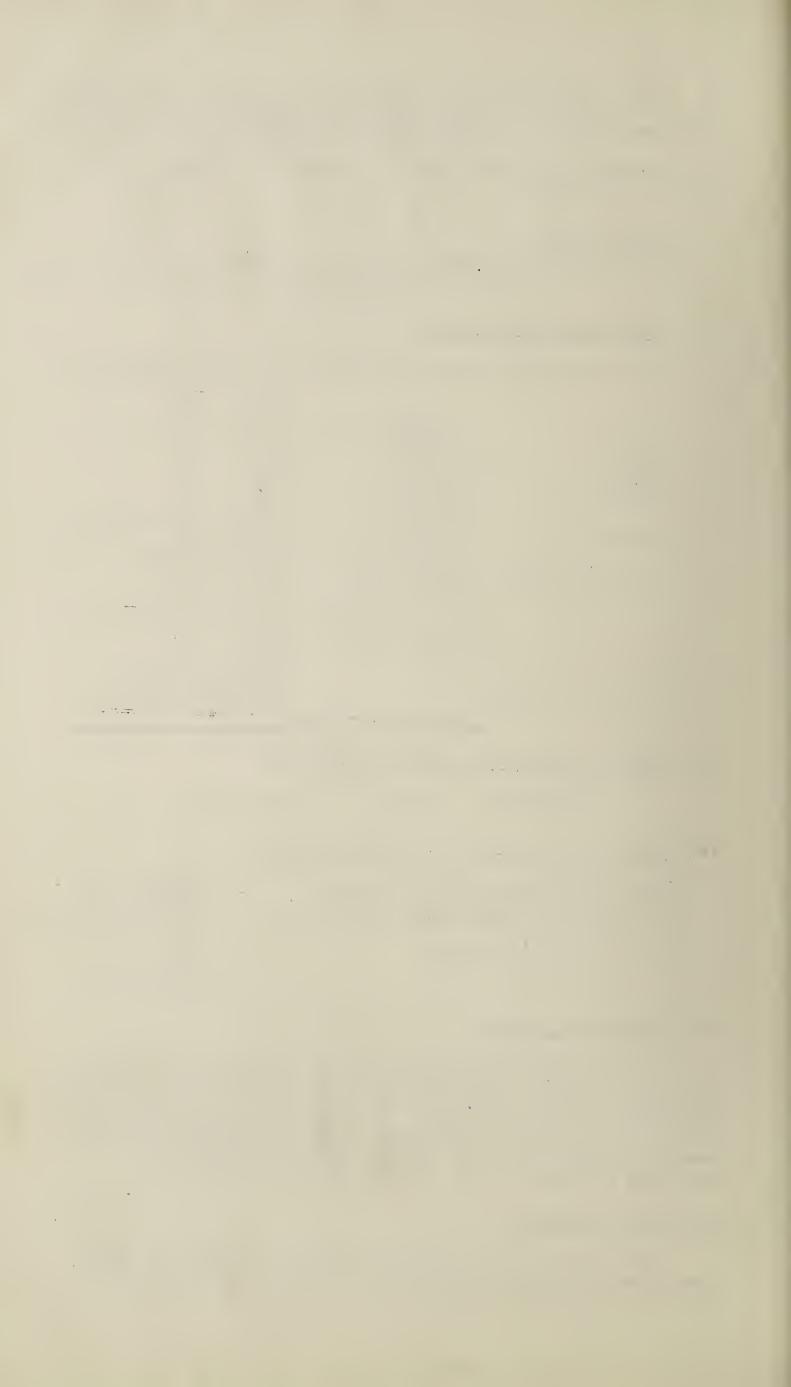
Tinned and other Foods. - Buried at the Refuse Tip.

#### (f) Transport of Meat.

The same unsatisfactory type of vehicle has continued in use, and apart from the fact that they arrive clean for each day's work, nothing can be said in their favour for the job for which they are used. It is to be hoped that when butchers are given a free hand, they themselves and their customers will insist on much better transport and handling methods.

#### (g) Slaughterhouse.

This has been maintained generally in good and clean condition. Improved artificial lighting was installed, and a new hide shed built.



#### (h) Slaughtermen's Licences.

Two Slaughtermen's Licences were renewed during the year.

#### (i) Milk.

One Dairy and three Distributors were added to the register, but one of the Distributors went out of business before the end of the year.

Two additional Pasteurised Dealer's Licences were issued, one of which lapsed.

At the close of the year, there were five dairy premises, one wholesale distributor, and six retail distributors on the register. Three Tuberculin Tested Dealer's Licences and four Pasteurised Dealer's Licences were operative.

One Distributor was cautioned concerning a dirty milk bottle.

#### (j) Ice Cream.

Sweets.

There are no premises registered for the manufacture of Ice Cream, but twenty-six are registered for its storage and sale.

#### (k) Number and types of Food Premises.

Bakehouses. Bakers and Confectioners. Butchers. Cafés.	_ _ _	7. 5. 8.
Chemists.	_	3.
Egg Packing Station.	-	1.
Fish, Fried.	-	7.
, Wet.	_	4.
Flour Mills.	_	2.
General Stores.		14.
Greengrocers.		7.
Groceries and provisions.		8.
Hotels.		2.
Sausage, Pie and Brawn Factory.	_	1.
Snack Bar.	_	1.
Sweet Shops.	-	11.
-		
Wholesale Warehouses :-		
Groceries and Provisions.	_	1.

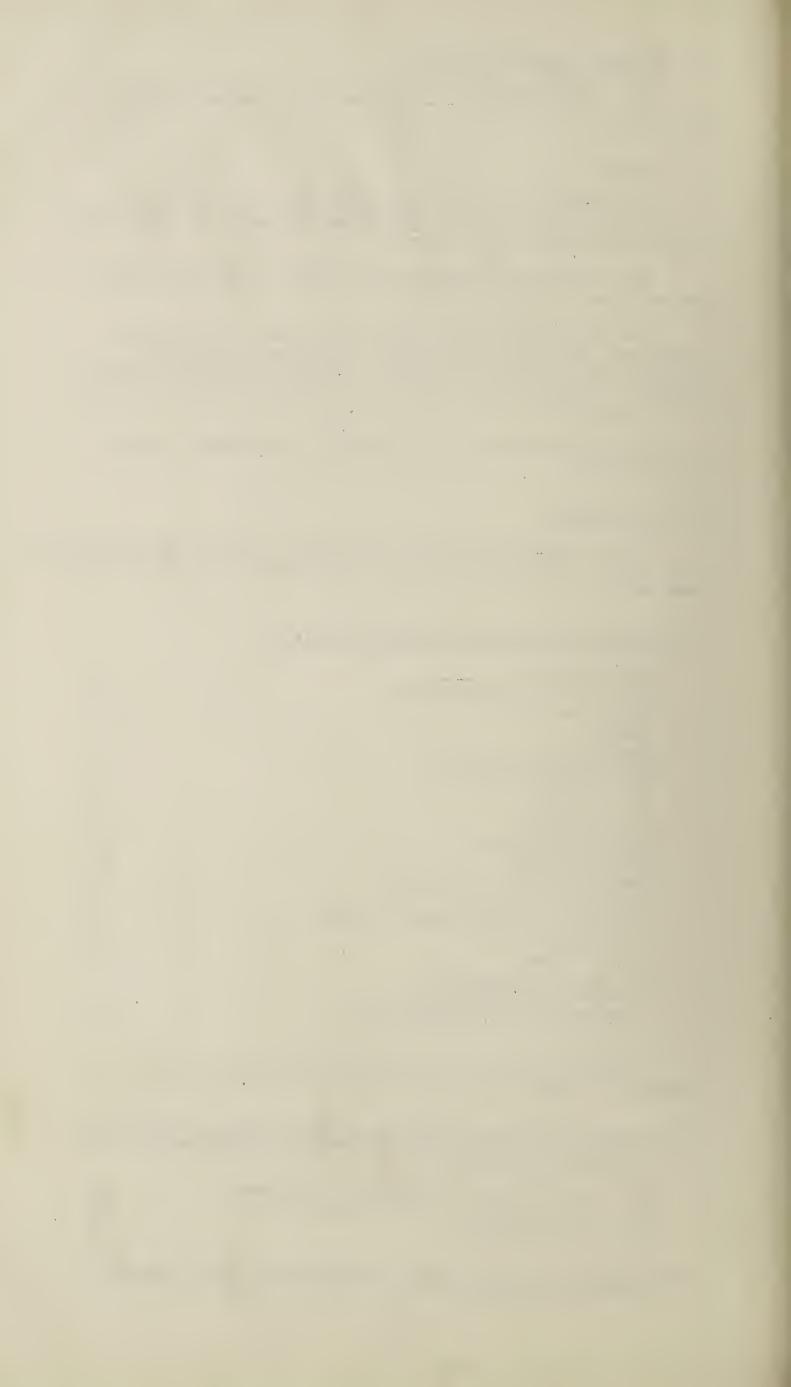
There are also three Maltsters and one Malt Products Works.

## (1) Number, by type, Registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act.

For t	he sale	and	storage	e of	Ice	Cream.	_	26.
For t	he Manu	factu	re of S	Sausa	ages	etc.	-	9.
Fried	Fish S	hops.					_	7.

l.

#### (m) Number of Inspections of Registered Food Premises.



#### (n) Clean Food Campaigns.

No specific educational activity has been inaugurated.

#### (o) Liquid Egg and Frozen Liquid Egg.

From May to the end of the year, weekly samples of Liquid Egg and Frozen Liquid Egg were taken at the Egg Packing Station and sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Ipswich for examination.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

Four samples were taken from services off the Town (Station Road) supply, three from services off the Poplar Hill Supply, and two from services off the Stowupland Waterworks Supply, and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. All received satisfactory reports.

One sample from a pump from a well was taken and reported "highly unsatisfactory". The well was closed, and the house connected to the town supply.

#### SWIMMING POOL.

One sample of water was taken from the Swimming Pool at the peak period and was reported as "very satisfactory".

#### SHOPS ACT, 1950.

Washing facilities were provided at one shop as a result of an Informal Notice.

#### FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

A number of inspections were carried out, and two Statutory Notices and seventeen Informal Notices were served to remedy various defects. All were complied with.

#### RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

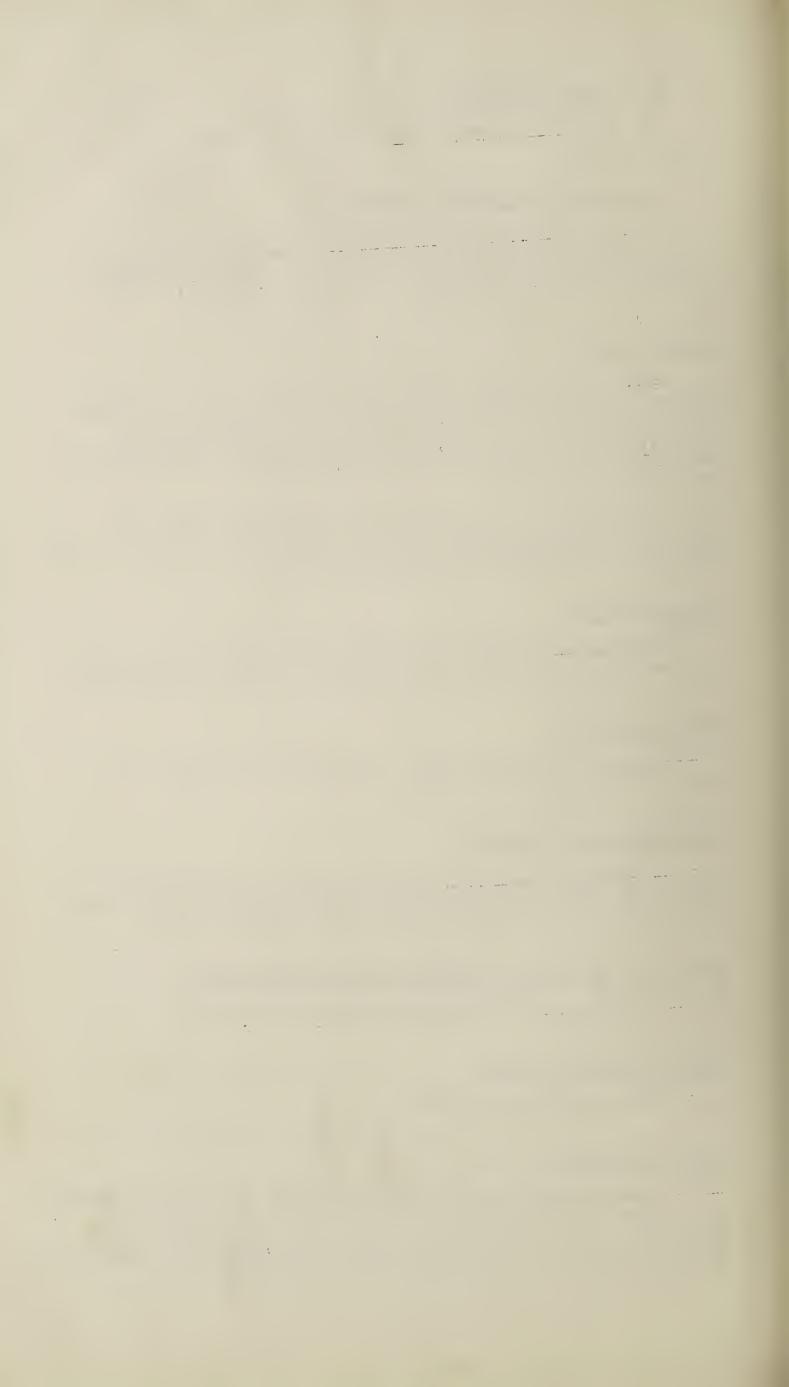
Two premises are registered under this Act.

#### PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

One licence was renewed.

#### SMOKE NUISANCES.

No actionable nuisance has occurred, but representations have been made from time to time to four different firms concerning smoke emissions. These works are all in residential areas, and atmospheric conditions have some effect on the occurrence and extent of the nuisance.



#### CONVENIENCES AT LICENSED AND PUBLIC PREMISES.

All are reasonably well maintained, and no action has been found necessary.

#### PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

These have been subjected to the abuse and misuse which appears common to unattended conveniences. Every effort has been made to keep them clean, but their fitness for use depends very largely upon the users.

An additional Gentlemen's convenience, consisting of two W.C.'s and a range of Urinal Stalls, was opened at the Camping Ground.

#### INFECTIOUS ETC., DISEASES.

Six cases of Scarlet Fever and one of Meningococcal Infection were investigated. Three cases of Dysentery and four cases of Food Poisoning were also investigated.

#### DISINFESTATIONS.

Two bug disinfestations were carried out.

## MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL'S RESEARCH ON POLIOMYELITIS - VIROLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS OF SEWAGE.

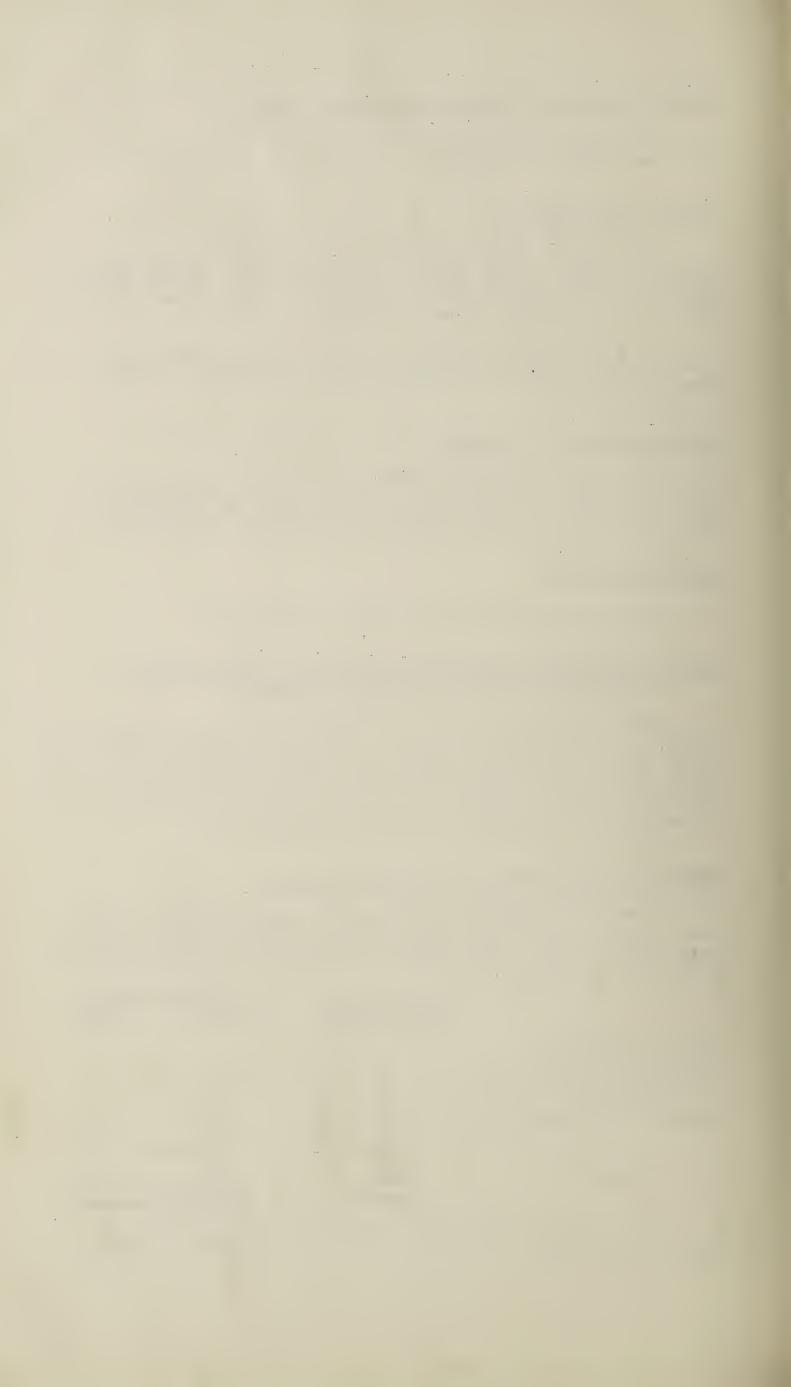
These investigations, in which the Urban District was invited to co-operate in 1951, continued, and four batches of sewer swabs were taken during the year and despatched to the Virus Reference Library. It will be noted from the Medical Officer's Report that it is understood that this work is beginning to provide valuable information.

#### PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949,

Forty-five complaints regarding infestations of rats and mice were received and dealt with, and frequent surveys were carried out. The number of treatments and the "known kill" was as follows :-

	Treatments.	" <u>K</u> nown Rats.	Kill". Mice.
Local Authority's properties. Business and Industrial	9.	198.	- 0
Premises. Private Dwelling Houses.	16. . 121.	122. 360.	<del>-</del> . 26.
Totals :-	146.	680.	26.

These figures are again rather lower than those of the previous year.



#### REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

This service continued satisfactorily, and I am again pleased to record the generally satisfactory manner in which the refuse collectors have carried out their work.

A further twenty-eight bins were supplied by the Council at a charge of 4/- per annum, bringing the total issued to 245. Eight bins were provided privately following service of Informal Notices.

The refuse tip has been kept as tidy as possible and has not given rise to any nuisance. Low lying land in Creeting Road owned by the Stowmarket Timber Company was used as a tip during the winter months, and useful land is thereby being reclaimed. The use of this land represents a useful saving in cartage costs, and as the Timber Company level and cover the refuse some labour costs are also saved. Some objections were raised by residents of Creeting Road, but these were over-ruled after full investigation by the Public Health Committee.

#### SALVAGE.

The salvage of waste paper continued, and resulted in a yield of  $98\frac{1}{2}$  tons, which was over 14 tons above that of the previous year.

Prices were further reduced, and the cash yield was £723. 9s. 3d., which was £135 less than the previous year. Nevertheless, a profit of some £225 was made. This was effected by a stepping-up of the baling process, and while present prices and costs remain the service can be carried on to show a reasonable and useful margin of profit. This material would in any case have to be collected and disposed of, and the real value of the service is rather more than that actually reflected.

Other Salvage receipts - Bones, Scrap Metal, Rags, String etc. - amounted to £44. 10. Od.

#### COMPLAINTS.

One hundred and ninety eight complaints were received and dealt with.

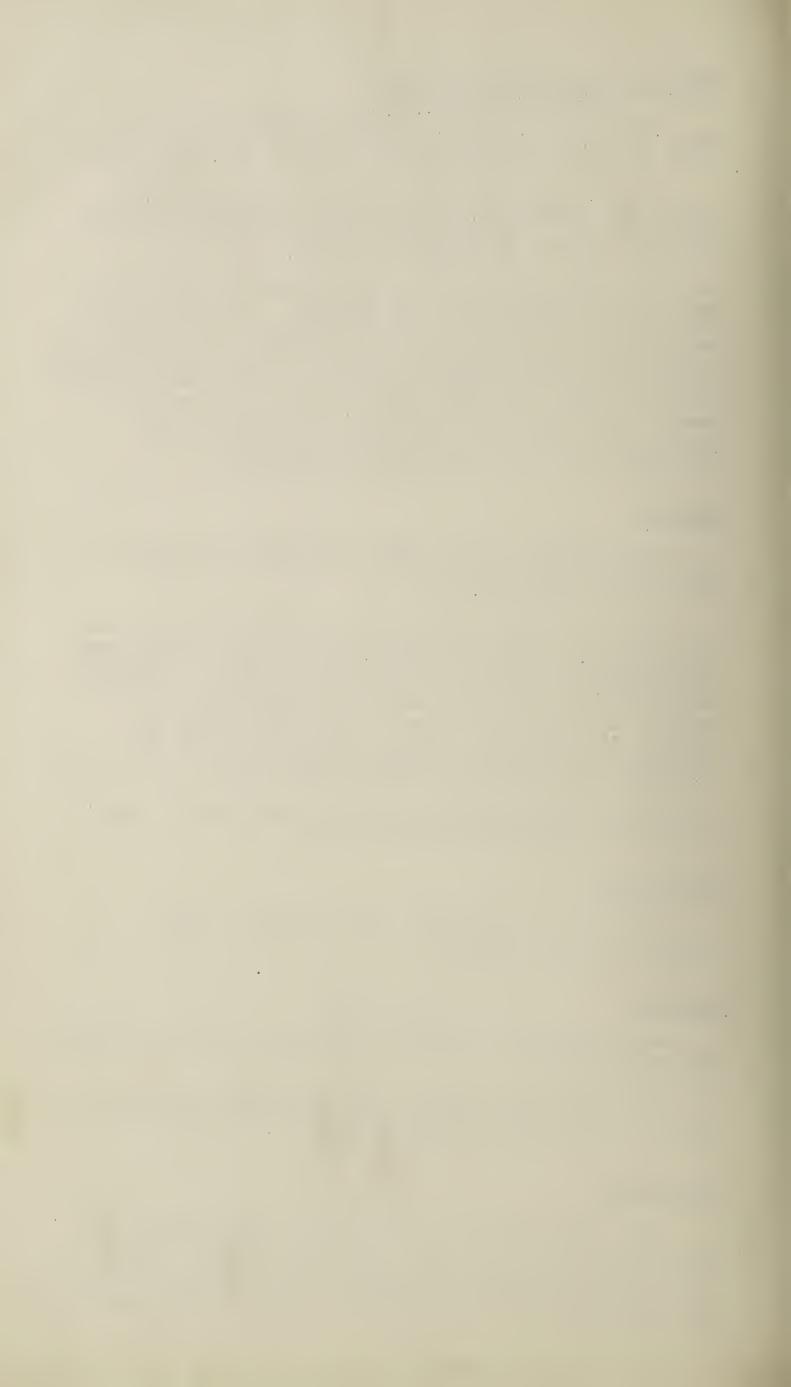
#### NOTICES.

One hundred and thirty two Informal Notices were given and complied with.

Five Statutory Notices - one each under Sections 39 and 46, and three under Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936, were served and complied with.

#### CONCLUSION.

The report gives an outline of the work carried out under the several headings, but much is in fact done in the nature of advice, persuasion, and education, and it does not necessarily produce immediate obvious results. That results are obtained is reflected in the general health of the community.



Prior importance has again been given to Meat and Foods, and I am again able to report a 100% inspection of all carcases passing through the Government Central Slaughterhouse. This has necessitated irregular hours of work including some Sunday work, and has been made possible by the ready assistance given by Mr. (S.A.Lilley, the Slaughterhouse Manager, when I have been absent from the District. It will be observed that the number of carcases inspected has more than doubled in five years, and in order to maintain inspection some other work has received less attention that it would otherwise have done. It can be anticipated that the return to use of Private Slaughterhouses when meat control ends may well increase the amount of time necessary for this work if adequate inspection and safeguard of the public health is to be maintained, and the proposed Housing Repairs and Rents Acts and Food and Drugs Act will involve a very large increase in work which will render assistance imperative.

I have again been indebted to the Medical Officer of Health (Doctor Marjory Dawson), and to the other officers of the Council, and to the members of the Council for continued help and co-operation.

I am, Gentlemen, Your obedient servant,

J. S. FISHER.

Sanitary Inspector, Meat and Foods Inspector, and Salvage Officer.